

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appln. No. 09/982,787
Atty. Docket No. Q66831

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. - 7. (Canceled)
8. (Currently Amended) An information reproducing apparatus for reproducing recording information, which is encrypted and recorded with first reproducing limit information for controlling the number of reproduction times or a reproduction period of the recording information in a recording medium, the recording information being converted into ECC blocks, the first reproducing limit information being recorded separately from the recording information and being embedded on one part of the ECC blocks ~~the recording information~~ as second reproducing limit information, said information reproducing apparatus comprising:
 - a reproducing limit information detecting device for detecting the first reproducing limit information;
 - a reproducing limit information extracting device for extracting the second reproducing limit information from the one part of the ECC blocks ~~the recording information~~;
 - a confirming device for confirming whether the first reproducing limit information matches the second reproducing limit information; and

an output control device for supplying the recording information based on the first reproducing limit information only when the confirming device confirms that the first reproducing limit information matches the second reproducing limit information.

9. (Previously Presented) The information reproducing apparatus, according to Claim 8, wherein

said recording medium having a start information recording area, said start information recording area in which start information detected at starting the reproducing of the recording information is recorded, said start information on which key information for encrypting cryptographic information used for encrypting the recording information is embedded, said key information which is generated by using identification information, said identification information particular to each recording medium and recorded in the recording medium, said cryptographic information which is encrypted by using the key information and added to the recording information with which the first reproducing limit information is recorded,

wherein said information reproducing apparatus further comprises:

a key information detecting device for detecting the key information from the start information recording area;

an encrypted cryptographic information detecting device for detecting the encrypted cryptographic information from the recording medium;

an obtaining device for decoding the detected encrypted cryptographic information by using the detected key information and obtaining original cryptographic information; and

a decoding device for decoding the extracted original recording information by using the obtained original cryptographic information and supplying the decoded recording information to the output control device.

10. (Previously Presented) The information reproducing apparatus, according to Claim 8, wherein

said recording medium in which content information indicating the content of the recording information is recorded, said content information on which key information for encrypting cryptographic information used for encrypting the recording information is embedded, said key information which is generated by using identification information, said identification information particular to each recording medium and recorded in the recording medium, said cryptographic information which is encrypted by using the key information and added to the recording information with which the first reproducing limit information is recorded,

wherein said information reproducing apparatus further comprises:

a key information detecting device for detecting the key information from the recording medium;

an encrypted cryptographic information detecting device for detecting the encrypted cryptographic information from the recording medium;

an obtaining device for decoding the detected encrypted cryptographic information by using the detected key information and obtaining original cryptographic information; and

a decoding device for decoding the extracted original recording information by using the obtained original cryptographic information and supplying the decoded recording information to the output control device.

11. – 17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) An information reproducing method for reproducing recording information, which is encrypted and recorded with first reproducing limit information for controlling the number of reproduction times or a reproduction period of the recording information in a recording medium, the recording information being converted into ECC blocks, the first reproducing limit information being recorded separately from the recording information and being embedded on part of the ECC blocks ~~the recording information~~ as second reproducing limit information, said method comprising:

a reproducing limit information detecting process for detecting the first reproducing limit information;

a reproducing limit information extracting process for extracting the second reproducing limit information from the ~~recording information~~ part of the ECC blocks;

a confirming process for confirming whether the first reproducing limit information matches the second reproducing limit information; and

an output control process for supplying the recording information based on the first reproducing limit information only when confirming process confirms that the first reproducing limit information matches the second reproducing limit information.

19. (Previously Presented) The information reproducing method, according to Claim 18, wherein

said recording medium having a start information recording area, said start information recording area in which start information detected at starting the reproducing of the recording information is recorded, said start information on which key information for encrypting cryptographic information used for encrypting the recording information is embedded, said key information which is generated by using identification information, said identification information particular to each recording medium and recorded in the recording medium, said cryptographic information which is encrypted by using the key information and added to the recording information with which the first reproducing limit information is recorded,

wherein said information reproducing method further comprises:

a key information detecting process for detecting the key information from the start information recording area;

an encrypted cryptographic information detecting process for detecting the encrypted cryptographic information from the recording medium;

an obtaining process for decoding the detected encrypted cryptographic information by using the detected key information and obtaining original cryptographic information; and

a decoding process for decoding the extracted original recording information by using the obtained original cryptographic information and supplying the decoded recording information to the output control process.

20. (Previously Presented) The information reproducing method, according to Claim 18, wherein

said recording medium in which content information indicating the content of the recording information is recorded, said content information on which key information for encrypting cryptographic information used for encrypting the recording information is embedded, said key information which is generated by using identification information, said identification information particular to each recording medium and recorded in the recording medium, said cryptographic information which is encrypted by using the key information and added to the recording information with which the first reproducing limit information is recorded,

wherein said information reproducing method further comprises:

a key information detecting process for detecting the key information from the recording medium;

an encrypted cryptographic information detecting process for detecting the encrypted cryptographic information from the recording medium;

an obtaining process for decoding the detected encrypted cryptographic information by using the detected key information and obtaining original cryptographic information; and

a decoding process for decoding the extracted original recording information by using the obtained original cryptographic information and supplying the decoded recording information to the output control process.

21. – 30. (Canceled)

31. (New) An information recording apparatus, comprising:

a receiving device for receiving a contents information from an external source, the contents information including an audio visual information and a reproducing limit information, the reproducing limit information being supplied with the audio visual information and used for controlling the manner in which the audio visual information is reproduced;

a converting device for converting the audio visual information and the reproducing limit information into ECC blocks;

an embedding device for embedding the reproducing limit information in the ECC blocks created by the converting device by converting the audio visual information in order to generate embedded ECC blocks so that part of the ECC blocks is replaced with a replacement information based on the reproducing limit information; and

a recording device for recording the embedded ECC blocks into a recording medium.

32. (New) The information recording apparatus according to claim 31, wherein the part of the ECC blocks is located at an edge of the ECC outer code adjacent to the ECC inner code.

33. (New) The information reproducing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the second reproducing limit information is embedded according to an insertion table.

34. (New) The information reproducing apparatus according to claim 33, wherein the reproducing limit information extracting device extracts the second reproducing limit information according to the insertion table.

35. (New) The information reproducing apparatus according to claim 34, wherein the insertion table indicates that the insertion position of the second reproducing limit information is different for different ECC blocks.

36. (New) The information reproducing apparatus according to claim 35, wherein the second reproducing limit information is embedded into each of the ECC blocks.

37. (New) The information reproducing method according to claim 18, wherein the second reproducing limit information is embedded according to an insertion table.

38. (New) The information reproducing method according to claim 37, wherein the reproducing limit information extracting process extracts the second reproducing limit information according to the insertion table.

39. (New) The information reproducing method according to claim 38, wherein the insertion table indicates that the insertion position of the second reproducing limit information is different for different ECC blocks

40. (New) The information reproducing method according to claim 39, wherein the second reproducing limit information is embedded into each of the ECC blocks.

41. (New) The information reproducing apparatus according to claim 31, wherein the reproducing limit information is embedded in the ECC blocks according to an insertion table.

42. (New) The information reproducing apparatus according to claim 41, wherein the insertion table indicates that the insertion position of the reproducing limit information is different for different ECC blocks.

43. (New) The information reproducing apparatus according to claim 42, wherein the reproducing limit information is embedded into each of the ECC blocks.